

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3-5 to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus for executing recording by ejecting ink from recording means to a recording medium, comprising:

a cap movable in ~~a~~ direction directions where it comes into contact with and is separated from ~~the~~ an ejection port surface of the recording means, for capping the ejection port surface;

an absorbing member chamber disposed ~~to~~ in the cap and opened in confrontation with the ejection port surface;

a suction port formed through ~~the~~ a bottom of the absorbing member chamber;

suction means, connected to the suction port, for suctioning the ink in the absorbing member chamber; and

an absorbing member disposed in the absorbing member chamber for absorbing ink, said absorbing member comprising a first absorbing portion covering approximately ~~the~~ an entire region in the absorbing member chamber and a second absorbing portion in intimate contact with the suction port,

wherein the first absorbing portion is arranged separately from the second absorbing portion, and the second absorbing portion projects through the bottom of the absorbing member chamber and comes into contact with the bottom of the first absorbing portion.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 2 1, wherein the absorbing member chamber has a projection formed on the bottom thereof at a position apart from the suction port, and the first absorbing portion is supported by the second absorbing portion and the projection.

4. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim [[1]] 5, wherein the first absorbing portion is formed integrally with the second absorbing portion.

5. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 1 for executing recording by ejecting ink from recording means to a recording medium, comprising:

a cap movable in directions where it comes into contact with and is separated from an ejection port surface of the recording means, for capping the ejection port surface;

an absorbing member chamber disposed in the cap and opened in confrontation with the ejection port surface;
a suction port formed through a bottom of the absorbing member chamber;
suction means, connected to the suction port, for suctioning the ink in the absorbing member chamber; and

an absorbing member disposed in the absorbing member chamber for absorbing ink, said absorbing member comprising a first absorbing portion covering approximately an entire region in the absorbing member chamber and a second absorbing portion in intimate contact with the suction port,

wherein a counterbore portion ~~in to~~ into which the second absorbing portion is forcibly inserted is formed in the suction port at the an opening end thereof on the bottom of the absorbing member chamber.

6. (Original) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the counterbore portion has a locking portion for preventing the second absorbing portion from being removed.

7. (Original) An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the absorbing member chamber has a locking portion for preventing the first absorbing portion from being removed.